

The 50 MHz DX Bulletin

Volume 3

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Issue #3

50 MHz DX for March-April

A tremendous number of DX tips are on hand; new operations are being announced almost daily! Unfortunately, many are announced with hardly any advance notice; we do the best we can in view of that problem. As always, be aware that late updates are available from the 6m group in general, on the liaison frequency 28885.

On the table for March-April we have such goodies as Clipperton, San Andres, San Felix, South Sandwich, Kure, Rotuma, Brunei, Cocos, Palau, Nauru, Tarawa, Lebanon, and many more. Sadly, relatively little has been announced for Asia, the Indian Ocean, or Africa.

The propagation as of presstime is already looking good, including JR6 long path into New Mexico at 1510 on March 6.

Happy DXing!

de NI6E.

NEWS OF OCEANIA

Australia: In some European circles, both in correspondence and in print, listings of alleged non-QSLing 6m DXers are being circulated. One of those listed was Steve VK6PA. This editor has received a fine QSL from VK6PA (*as has your publisher*), and from some other stations on those lists. Perhaps the list-compilers simply don't understand proper QSLing techniques. I view such black-listing as counterproductive; it is likely that a station prematurely labeled as a non-QSLer will react by refusing to have anything to do with 6m ever again. We cannot afford to alienate rare DX!

Brunei: Peter G3ZSS, who worked 97 countries on 6m from the U.K., has moved here for at least a 2-year stint as V85PB. He has an IC575H, running 100 watts into a 6-element yagi at 60 feet. He also has 4 elements on 10m for liaison. In his first couple of weeks, he has already worked into Hawaii, Japan, Australia, and Europe. Peter says he is mainly active around 0830-1030 daily, plus all day on weekends; his locator is OJ74do. QSLs go to Peter Bacon, P.O.Box 715, Seria, Brunei. V85EB has an FT690 but has never worked anything except VK and JA; Peter will try to persuade him to be more active.

Cocos (Keeling): Fritz VK9CK (F6IMS) and Claudia VK9CL (F6CUY) will begin operation here on March 18, continuing through April 7. They will have two 6m rigs: a 736 at 100 watts, and a TS690 (loaned by JA1BK) into a KW amplifier. The antenna will be an 8 dB gain beam, but they may try to construct something bigger. The VK9CK callsign will be used also for a beacon on 50.072; if this is heard, they can be raised on their HF frequencies, as follows: Claudia will run CW on 14005-21005-28005, and Fritz will run SSB on 14195-18145-21295-24945-28495. In addition, they will be active on 144.890 via satellites. If they hear any signals from North America, they will announce it on 28885. The QSLs go via F6IMS. Tnx N6AMG et al.

East Malaysia: IK2GNW announced, on short notice, an operation as 9M8NW on February 12-17, including 6m with 10 watts into a Tonna 5-element beam. He prefers SSB and said he would listen on 50.110 and 28.885. Not surprisingly, no reports were heard.

Hawaiian Islands: Art AH6LR, who also held the calls NH6LT and AH6LM during the past year, has moved and so is not valid in the Callbook. His current route is P.O.Box 896, Kailua HI 96734. If you QSL to Art, you might try explaining to him what 50.110 is for. Tnx KH6HH. Ron KH6VP now lives on the Big Island; his QSLs go to P.O.Box 365, Volcano HI 96785.

Kure: On short notice, Bob KD7P conducted a DXpedition signing /NH7 from February 7 to 19. He ran a breakable keyer on 50.120, using 100 watts into 4el. This was a "working" trip, but nonetheless Bob managed to contact many W6 and W7 stations, and a small number of W5 and W0 stations, in addition to JA, ZL, and Pacific Islands. QSLs go to KD7P. Tnx KG6DX and KH6HH.

Also, Rick KH6JEB will return to KH7 for perhaps the last time, from March 8 to 18, approximately. Tnx KH6HH.

Nauru: On March 6, the odd silence from C21BR was broken with a contact into VK8, and on the next day Brian worked many eastern VK's on 50.119. He actually ran a *list* on the latter date. He continues to run his beacon as mentioned last issue. The T30 and V73 operators/beacon might also be helpful indicators; Brian can be alerted via landline at 674-4370. His QSL route is P.O.Box 478, Nauru Island, central Pacific.

New Caledonia: Henri FK8EB writes that FK stations may use the following special-event callsigns: "(own call)/50USA." This commemorates the fiftieth anniversary of the arrival in New Caledonia of U. S. Army forces on 1941 March 12; additional ceremonies are scheduled for August 16. Henri comments: "All New Caledonia people will keep the U.S.A. in our hearts forever. Thousands and thousands of young Americans gave their lives for our freedom and the freedom of the world! Never forget it!" FK8EB, of course, is famous for great 6m DX accomplishments including long-path from his mobile VW Combi. He will be using this special call on all HF and VHF bands, and will make a special effort to be active on the above two dates. QSL direct (with 2 IRCs or a green stamp) to Henri Pesnel, 30, Av. Michel-Ange, Noumea B.P. 9754, Nouvelle-Caledonie, South Pacific.

New Zealand: Bob ZL4AAA has exchanged QSL cards with YU3ZV for their contact of 1991 November 10 at 0720z; this (which had previously been reported as tentative) thus becomes the very first ZL to Europe contact.

Northern Marianas: A JA group showed up here unannounced, starting March 6. Callsigns in use include KK6RT/KH0, KH0/JL1UEV, and KH0/JE1BQE, and they were heard using both modes on 50.125.

NEWS OF ASIA

Palau: A reminder of the major operation here March 2-13. Charlie W0RRY is the 6m op and signed W0RRY/KC6 for a couple of days before changing over to KC6RR. The primary operating frequency is 50.117, including use of a beacon keyer and/or voice keyer on that frequency. On his first day, Charlie made 507 QSOs, including NI6E/KH6, KG6DX, KG6UH/DU1, a couple of VKs, many JAs, and was heard by 3D2PO. At presstime (March 7), he still doesn't have the 500-watt amplifier working, so is operating barefoot. For those who haven't seen a DXCC list in the last 3 years, the old Eastern/Western Carolines designations have been replaced by Micronesia (Kosrae-Pohnpei-Truk-Yap groups) which uses the V63 prefix, and Palau which continues to use the KC6 prefix (although that prefix is now used in California as well). Micronesia has been worked in the U.S. several times on 6m, but never Palau, due to lack of activity. Keep in mind the possibility of long-path into the U.S. in the morning. QSLs go to OKDXA, Box 88, Wellston OK 74881.

Philippines: A new op is now on 6m: N1AWR/DU1, with 50 watts into 5 elements. Tnx KG6UH.

Rotuma: Just for the record, DL1SDN/ZB0T, DF2UU, DL4FP, and DJ1WM were supposedly active here on 6m from January 18 to February 1. They were not reported heard by anyone, indeed the same applies to their earlier stops at KH8 and elsewhere in the Pacific. This operation was accompanied by much confusion about operating frequencies; each new rumor contradicted all previous rumors, and there was no liaison on 28885.

Also, Antoine 3D2AG expects to be on Rotuma for the entirety of March and April, and perhaps part of May. Steve VK3OT is supplying a TS600 and 5el M² with rotator for this operation, and that rig is expected to reach Antoine about March 15 or sooner. Antoine likes CW, and knows about 28885.

Tokelau: Kerry ZL2TPY has announced plans to activate ZK3 from April 15 to May 16. Kerry's license class prevents him from using CW or liaising on 10m. QSL to his home address.

Tuvalu: JQ1QET and JG1SHT operated here on short notice, from February 14 to 25. Tnx KG6DX and WVHFN. Ian T20AA has not been reported in several months.

Vanuatu: Simon YJ8GP has not had much luck with 6m lately, and has decided to make his telephone number available for alerts of propagation; he is near the phone most of the day. The country code is 678, then 23905. His rig is an FT680R into a 70 watt linear, and a 5el yagi. QSLs go via Ron VK4BRG, whom we thank for this tip. Since the H44 beacon is still QRT, the best indicators would have to be 6m operators in FK and the 3D2FJ beacon.

Western Kiribati: A JA group operated here, on short notice, in mid-February, using numerous callsigns including T30DS, NR, NYZ, and QQ. Their keyer frequency was 50.130.

On Feb.25, Jack T30JH arrived for a month on Tarawa. He immediately encountered problems with his IC-551, but the rig cured itself soon thereafter, and he has been working extensively into V73, ZL, VK, and JA. He is using a 5-element beam.

Asiatic Russian Republic: The EK0JA callsign is still being used by Mike UW0MF. He has been making meteor-scatter skeds with JA stations on 21.247 MHz at 0300 on Sundays. He then operates 6m at 2100-2200 on Sundays, using fixed frequencies: he calls on 50.100 and he listens on 50.150. Tnx JA3EGE. EK0JA QSLs go via JA1BK. Tnx WVHFN.

Cyprus: Jon 5B4ZL has had to cease 6m operations due to his local CATV feed being on ch.2; his last QSO was on 1991 May 7. Tnx Six News.

Kazakhstan: Mike UL7GCC says on October 17 and 18 he was copying many European signals on 6m, but could not make himself heard. Then on the 19th, his neighbors complained to the Inspector of Electro Communication that Mike was causing severe TVI, and his station was shut down for investigation. Apparently that problem has been resolved, because on January 12 he worked OH2BC, and numerous contacts have been reported into Europe since then. Bob ZL4AAA reports that Mike now operates *portable* to escape the TVI problem.

Kirghizia: UL7GCC was to have operated /UM8 starting sometime in the second half of February. No other details available.

Kuwait: 9K2WR (KJ6JC) says that Kuwait may be about to get 6m permission. Experienced VHF man Bob WA8MOA is now in 9K as well, and the two of them are soliciting beacon hardware. Another callsign being mentioned is 9K2USA. Tnx K8MFO.

Lebanon: Samir OD5SK is now QRV and legal. On Feb.1 at 1010 he worked G1OTC followed by many other U.K. stations, plus OY9JD, until 1046. Samir would like to thank DL2EAD who constructed his 10-watt transverter and arranged for the shipping. The antenna is a 0.25-wl GP at 45m AGL with a clear takeoff in all directions. A beam will be constructed soon, and the GP will be used for the OD5SIX beacon which is being prepared in the U.K. It is hoped that another OD station will soon be QRV, now that all Class A amateurs have access to the band. Tnx G0JHC.

Maldives: Two Japanese operators are planning a 6m DXpedition to 8Q for a week around mid-March. No other details yet. Tnx JA3EGE.

North Korea: OH2BH and others are hoping to visit here, possibly in May, and will probably include 6m. Tnx KG6DX.

Vietnam: A rumor is circulating of a DXpedition here on 80-6m, to have begun February 18. No further details.

West Malaysia: IK2GNW may, after his Sarawak operation, have been operational here as 9M3NW on 2/17-23.

NEWS OF NORTH AMERICA

Alaska: Three often-checked indicator frequencies for Alaska, since there is no 6m beacon, are 40.69, 42.40, and 47.04. The 40.69 is at 61°09'N/144°46'W, is operated by the Department of Interior, and runs 2500 watts of data into a 9 dB yagi. The 42.40 is at 61°10'N/150°02'W (near Anchorage) and is operated by Meteor Data Inc. Tnx N6AMG. The 47.04 channel is used by highway maintenance crews and uses the callsign KDZ586. Tnx N5JHV.

Aves Island: Here are some further details on the YX0AI operation from February 28 to March 3, which was worked extensively on 6m in North and South America. The operators were members of the Venezuela DX Club and the Asociacion de Radioaficionados de Venezuela (ARV). SSB QSLs go to ARV, P.O.Box 3636, Caracas, and CW QSLs go via the YV DX Club, P.O.Box 75458, Caracas 1070-A. Tnx TDXB.

Bahamas: Bill KM1E/C6A sends this summary of his December-January DXpedition results. Conditions were markedly better than in the two previous years, and a total of 641 contacts were made. The breakdown by countries is: *Europe* CU1=1, D=32, F=4, G=9, GI=1, GJ=1, GM=2, LX=1, OK=1, ON=5, PA=21, YO=1, and YU=2. Also on January 2 Bill heard SV1OE and SV3JO chatting but could not break them. The best period into Europe was 1400-1630z. *South America* HC1=1, P43=1, PZ1=1. *North America* W1=21, W2=73, W3=28, W4=53, W5=59, W6=111!, W7=71, W8=66, W9=20, W0=17, VE1=3, VE2=1, VE3=9, VE5=4, VE6=8, VE7=3. A total of 155 grids were worked in North America. Bill is back in C6A again from March 6 to 31 for more 6m DXing; he notes that his amplifier has quit working on SSB, but is still okay on CW. QSL address is Bill Wiseman, P.O.Box 120, Woolwich ME 04579.

Canada: Glen VE7HCE says he and Mike VE7SKA have been unable to get their correct addresses published in the Callbook, so here they are: Glen Tate VE7HCE, P.O.Box 372, Maple Ridge, B.C. Canada V2V-6H5, and Mike Cherry VE7SKA, P.O.Box 631, Ganges, B.C. Canada V0S-1E0.

Caymans: ZF1EJ was worked by PY5CC on Feb.29. No other details.

Clipperton: The FO0CI operation is now tentatively expected to be QRV from about March 6 to about March 14. N6AMG has loaned his 6m rig, including the kw amp and long yagi, to PA3DUU, who will be the 6m operator. We have high hopes and crossed fingers! Tnx K6QXY and TDXB.

El Salvador: Edgardo YS2AFD worked PY5CC on Feb.29. No other details.

Greenland: John WB5URO/OX is now at Sondrestromfjord until mid-March, and he brought a Swan 250 for 6m. He has shown up on 28885. The grid is either GP46 or GP47. QSL via WA5JCI. Tnx VE3KKL et al.

Also, OX3LX (home call OZ1DJJ) arrived in February for 2 weeks of operation, and he reports that OX3CS and OX3LK also have 6m capability.

Grenada: Chip W1AIM was heard saying he would be in J3 starting March 3, and would have 6m, with 10 or 100 watts into a dipole.

Also, Robbie J39GM has been working into Brazil in February and March. No other details, except that he does live on Grenada. Tnx PY5CC.

Guantanamo Bay: Ed KG4ER (WP4O/1) says he travels often to Gitmo, and is hoping to get on 6m. He already has a 5el beam, and is looking for an IC551 or similar rig so that he can start chasing 6m DX. He would appreciate advice on rigs, etc.; if anyone in Massachusetts can help, call him at (508) 563-2083, or write Ed Rodriguez, 5647B Doolittle Ave, Otis ANGB, MA 02542.

Honduras: Paul KA9KAI/HR2 in San Pedro Sula is active with a 70-watt Motorola FM rig into a single loop, operating particularly on 52.525 MHz. He is building a quad for 6m, and looking for a multimode rig. Tnx W5FF, N7JJS.

Meanwhile, a SMIRK-loaner FT620B is waiting in Miami for transport to Tegucigalpa, where it will be installed with a 4-element beam at the HR1CRT club station. Tnx N7JJS.

Mexico: Alberto XE3VV will be active in March from grid EL50. His QSL route is Alberto Ponce, P.O.Box 1198, Merida, Yucatan 97000, Mexico. Tnx W5FF. Per KM1H and others, be aware that foreign mail into Mexico is being heavily pilfered, reportedly with semi-official support. It is recommended that currency not be sent to XE; instead use IRCs, and perhaps registered mail as well.

Montserrat: Bobbie VP2MO now appears to be the most active West Indies 6m station, including occasional appearances on 28885, and he popped up on Feb.9 to give your editor his 100th country. In a letter dated Jan.20, Bobbie reports that he got his broken tower repaired, and got the 6el Telrex repaired and installed. A newly acquired IC551 is used for QSOs. QSLs for VP2MO can go via WB2LCH or direct to Errol "Bobbie" Martin, P.O.Box 113, Plymouth, Montserrat, West Indies.

Navassa: The QSL route for the recent KP1 operation is via Randy Rowe NT0G, 2120 Reverchon Drive, Arlington TX 76017. Tnx TDXB.

Nicaragua: Antonio YN5JAR showed up on Feb.22 at 0230, and worked many South Americans. He runs an FT680 at 25 watts into a dipole. QSL route: Jose Antonio Roban, P.O.Box 122, Jinotepe, Nicaragua. Tnx XQ3SIX.

Panama: Steve W7CI may be active here, and perhaps in Colombia as well, on a trip sometime in March or April.

Louis KG6UH (currently in DU1) hopes to move permanently to a mountaintop site in HP, perhaps as soon as this summer!

Revilla Gigedo: XF0C is operational on 6m, by XE1BEF, XE1ABA, and others from Clarion Island (DK28). They were originally to be there from Feb.4 to 19, but weather delayed this, and their startup was about Feb.18 and they were still there as of March 4. On 6m, they were heard around 50.122 (which their readout showed as 50.125), running SSB and fast hand-sent CW. On the 25th they worked your editor and KH6IAA, and were heard in California. They also worked some South Americans. QSL route is direct only to Hector Espinosa Flores, P.O.Box 231, Colima 28000 Mexico. Tnx WVFHN and TDXB.

San Andres y Providencia: W6JKV will activate HK0 in a big way from April 1 or 2 until April 13, assuming the license arrives in time, otherwise somewhere else. Also, Nels HK0HEU is said to be very interested in 6m, if some equipment can be supplied. He is active on 28513 around 1400. Tnx K8MFO and TDXB.

United States: Joel N6AMG has investigated the 46.9 MHz frequency listings, where many have been reporting reception of powerful data transmissions. It turns out that this is an Air Force meteor scatter system, with two transmitters in Oregon, one in Crescent City CA, one in Utah, one in Colorado, one in Fargo ND, one in Florida, and one in North Carolina. Other locations may also pop up.

Shep W7HAH is currently mobiling around the Southwest on holiday. He headed north around March 1, possibly activating such rare grids as DM17-18-19. When in motion, he uses a halo; when camped out it's a yagi.

Dave N8NQS has announced a grid-pedition into Ontario in June. The 6m rig will run 150 watts into a 5-el. yagi at 32 feet; on 2m he will use 180 watts into a 15-el. Cushcraft. The sked is as follows: 2300-0200 and 1100-1400 on June 22-23 in EN97; 2300-0200 and 1100-1400 on June 23-24 in EN98; 2300-0200 and 1100-1400 on June 24-25 in EN87; and 2300-0200 and 1100-1400 on June 25-26 in EN88. Special QSLs will be available for an SASE to Dave Bostedor Jr., 434 Pattie Ave., Jackson MI 49202.

Another grid-pedition will happen March 15-21, when John WZ8D will activate EL86 in Florida. He will run 800 watts to 3 el.

NEWS OF SOUTH AMERICA

Aruba: George P43FM will finish his operating on March 29. On March 4 and 5, he worked many JA's via long-path, giving him WAC.

Bolivia: Judy CP6AK was active on 6m on Feb.23, working into P43 and maybe into the southern U.S. as well. Her OM, Glenn CP6BY, was reported on 50.125 on March 2 into Brazil. QSL to P.O.Box 2010, Santa Cruz, Bolivia.

Brazil and Guyana: Richard G4CVI sends the following details for the upcoming Camel Trophy DXpedition. He will begin operation as PP8ZCB at Manaus, Brazil (GI70) on April 1, equipped for 6m and HF. On April 13 he flies to Georgetown, Guyana and will be joined by Paul G4CCZ, and they will jointly operate as G4SMC/8R1. On April 19 Richard returns to PP8 (leaving Paul operational as G4SMC/8R1) where he will be joined by Mike G3JVL and Andy G4PIQ. They will operate there until May 1, and then return to 8R1 for a final group operation until about May 20. On 6m the rigs will be FT650's into 6 or 8-element yagis; on HF they will have FT1000's, KW amps, and yagis. All QSLs go to K.R.Diamond, c/o G4SMC Radio Club, School Close, Chandlers Ford Industrial Estate, Eastleigh, Hants SO5 3BY, U.K. Richard (licensee of G4SMC) comments that they are hoping to get the QSL cards from the printers soon and will be responding to those cards already received. At presstime, several W's report receipt of the card, but note that it shows a grid of GJ07, conflicting with the GJ06 that was given out on the air during the DXpedition.

Colombia: JA6TEW has donated, and JA1VOK has shipped, a Tokyo Hy-Power HL-166V 160-watt amplifier to HK4BHA.

Fernando de Noronha: Further on the item two issues back, the linear amp supplied to PY0FF by N6CA is an 85-watter, and it was hand-carried by W9VA on February 12. Also, while on the island, W9VA operated as ZY0FX; QSL to his home QTH.

French Guiana: FY3FL continues active on 6m; he even worked 3D2PO around 0100 on Feb.18. He asks that QSLs go via FC1LOU in the 92 Callbook.

Galapagos: Ted HC5K operated here from February 20 to March 4 as HC8K, and did briefly show up on 6m. QSL direct to Box DX, Cuenca, Ecuador.

Netherlands Antilles: Frank PJ4/PE1EWR showed up briefly on Bonaire (FK52), on a vacation which ended on

February 15. He ran a barefoot TS680 into a vertical dipole. Tnx PY5CC.

PJ2/OH1ZAA is active from Curacao (FK52) on 6m in early March; QSL to OH1NOA, KP 7, SF-28760 Pori, Finland. After he departs, other OH stations will operate there, including 6m, for an additional 3 weeks.

St.Peter & St.Paul Rocks/Trinidad & Martim Vaz Is: Hat JA1VOK has donated a Kenwood TR9300 6m rig to Karl PS7KM for his future DXpeditions to PY0S/PY0T.

San Felix: John XQ0X has been showing up again on 6m, working South/Central Americans, and your editor, in late February at around 0330. He uses SSB only, and is usually on 50.1085 or 50.115. He knows about 28885, but his English is limited, and liaison with anglophiles goes smoothly only when PY5CC or YS1AG are on frequency helping with translation.

Venezuela: In his first major European opening on January 7, Ivan YV4AB asked that QSLs be sent via YV4UY only: Ivan Aguirreche, Box 1717, Valencia, Venezuela. Tnx G4UPS.

NEWS OF ANTARCTICA

Antarctica: The VK0KC operation, mentioned here several months ago, has been cancelled. Tnx VK7IK.

NEWS OF EUROPE

Austria: A number of DX stations have worked OE6XHF (a club station) as their only OE station on 6m, but it is not in the callbook. QSLs go to VUSC, Sausal 50, A-8444 St.Andrae, Austria. Tnx G4UPS.

Belgium: Two stations which are causing a bit of confusion on 6m are Gees ON4GG and Johan ON4ANT. Both have recently upgraded from ON1's; for a direct QSL, you will find ON4GG in the callbook under ON1CAK and ON4ANT under ON1CDQ. Both live at the same address. Tnx G4UPS.

Czechoslovakia: From Ted G4UPS come the following details of the 6m regulations. The official opening was at 0001 local time on December 15. Maximum power output is 20 watts, and antennas must be horizontally polarized. No mobile or portable operation is allowed. Only Class A and B stations may transmit on 6m. The band is 50.000-50.200, with SSB above 50.100 per the bandplan. The use of the band is very much on a non-interference basis, especially in areas where there is Channel 1 TV. At present, only OK residents may use 6m; Czechoslovakia has recently signed the CEPT agreement, but CEPT does not include 6m.

Also thanks to Ted, here are the 6m stations worked to date: OK3LQ and OK3LU in JN88, OK2PZW and OK2ZZ in JN89, and OK1DIG in JO70. Not in the callbook are OK2PZW: Zdeno Sterbacek, Dvorska 16, CS-67801 Blansko, Czechoslovakia, and OK2ZZ: Rudolf Touzin, Pricni 482/b, CS-59301 Bystrice nad Pernstejnem, Czechoslovakia.

England: Roger G4HBA (IO80) has been working a considerable amount of DX, but he has a new address for QSLing: Mr. Roger Horne, 16, Shortlands Rd, Cullompton, Devon EX15 1HJ, England, U.K. Tnx G4UPS.

Estonia: Tom ES2WX hopes to be active very soon on 6m. He has built a transverter for his FT290R. The UKSMG is

helping him obtain the needed crystal, and it was hoped that this would be in place by the end of January. QSLs go to T. Kull, Box 13, Viimsi, 203006, Harju, Estonia. Other stations recently active include ES5MC in KO38jj, running 1.5 watts to a 5el F9FT atop a 5-story building; QSL to Arvo Pihl, P O Box 301, Tartu, EE 2400 Estonia (or is the postal code 202400?). Lars SM0KAK has lent ES5MC his transverter, and requests that someone help with the donation of a transverter or amplifier to Arvo. ES5PC (ssb only) in KO38ik has 10 watts to 3 elements; QSL to Viljo Allik, P.O.Box 301, Tartu, EE 2400, Estonia. ES6QB in KO37mu runs 20 watts into a 2el HB9CV atop a 4-story building, and his QSLs go to Tonu Taimsaar, P.O.Box 31, Voru, EE 2710, Estonia. Others who have expressed an interest in 6m include ES1CW, ES5WE, and ES5QA. The address for the ES QSL bureau is ERAU, Box 125, Tallinn, 200090 Estonia; ES QSL cards should no longer be sent to Box 88 in Moscow. Tnx UKSMG, G4UPS, SM7AED, KG6UH, and QST Canada.

European Russian Republic: Mike UL7GCC reports that, per reliable sources, the Federation of RadioSports is expected to make important steps forward regarding a 50 MHz allocation at its next meeting. It is expected that permits will be granted within 6 months. Probably there will be many no-go areas as well as outside-TV-hours restrictions and limited power levels. Of course, with the ongoing separation of republics, the possibility also exists of local-level policy variations. In the meantime, no Soviet stations are allowed to transmit on 6m except some UL7's, Baltic republics, DXpeditions, and special-event stations. There have been isolated reports of activity from RA3TA and Andy RA3TES; the latter has 10 watts to a dipole from LO15, per WVHFN. That locator is a bit south of Gorky.

Gibraltar: Per request by K6EID, here is the QSL info for Steve ZB0X. His manager is his father: Ron Jones G1OIB, 10 Ferndale Cres, Gobowen, Oswestry, Shrops SY11 3PJ, England, U.K.

Hungary: ZS6AXT reports that HA3MQ was QRV on Feb.7.

Kaliningrad: UL7GCC, UL8GDD, and PA3EUI are tentatively planning to conduct a 6m DXpedition to UA2F (grid KO04) during the month of July. Tnx Six News.

Latvia: 6m is now officially authorized here. Tnx KM1H. QSLs should no longer be sent via Box 88, Moscow; instead, send them to the Latvia bureau at LRAL, Box 164, Riga-Center, 226098 Latvia. Tnx QST Canada.

Lithuania: Club station LY2WR has an experimental 6m license, valid until April. If it is determined that TV R1 is unaffected, they hope to renew the permit. This is the only licensed 6m station in Lithuania; the rig is an IC726 into a dipole. On December 23, LY2WR heard KP4EIT, and on New Year's Day, they worked into the U.K. Tnx PA3BFM and Six News. QSLs for Lithuania should no longer be sent to Box 88, Moscow; instead send them to: QSL Bureau, P.O.Box 1000, Vilnius - 1, Lithuania. Tnx G4UPS. QST Canada shows this instead: LRMD, Box 1000, Vilnius, 2001 Lithuania.

Malta: Brian 9H5ET has been very busy working DX on 6m, but is not in the callbook. Send QSLs to Mr. Brian Cole, 140, St Mary St, Zejtun, Malta. Tnx G4UPS.

Poland: Chris SP4TKK has been showing up on 28885 with updates to the SP 6m situation, but the permit situa-

tion is still unclear. They have just had elections and are awaiting radio regulations from the new government. Chris indicates that the first permits should be issued by mid-year. There are likely to be many no-go areas, and power and time limitations are likely. Meanwhile many SP amateurs have been busy converting old TV antennas for 6m use. They have organized the "Polish 50 MHz Initiative Group," which has some 35 members. They are producing a monthly Polish-language newsletter, which has already shown plans for a 2kw amplifier! Tnx Six News. Further info from G4UPS says that a hoped-for February 1 startup was unlikely, and as of January 29, SP4TKK stated that it would probably be a couple of months before the first permit was issued. One station ready to go is Rich SP3CUG, who already has an IC-726 with a 20-watt amplifier and a 5-element Tonna.

At presstime, it is rumored that the SP's have already received permission and are QRV.

San Marino: Somewhat in contradiction to the item 2 issues ago, T70A's operating conditions only allow CW around 50.105 MHz. Activity is mainly on weekends, and operators at this club station include T77C and T77T. T70A QSLs go to AARSM, PO Box 77, San Marino, Republic of San Marino, via Italy. Tnx Six News.

Spain: Conflicting with earlier reports, Spanish amateurs are still awaiting publication of their PTT's anticipated 6m amateur regulations. After that occurs, there will be a period of about 45 days in which stations will be allowed to apply for permits. It has been proposed that all licenses will be made available on the same day. With Spain hosting both EXPO 92 and the Olympic Games this year, the PTT appears to have 6m well down the priority list. But it now appears that EA could be on 6m as soon as March or as late as June. Tnx EA4CGN.

Yugoslavia: Ivan YT3ET is not in the callbook, but has been busy working many countries on 6m. His route is: Ivan Nanut, Cankarjeva 76, Nova Gorica 65000, Slovenia, Yugoslavia. Also, Drago YU3ZV reminds us that the YU3 QSL bureau no longer functions. Anyone requiring a QSL via bureau from Drago should route it to YU3ZV via the OE bureau to OE6LOG. Tnx G4UPS.

NEWS OF AFRICA

Ascension: Jim N6TJ operated as ZD8Z from February 11 to 26. Tnx TDXB. On March 5, PY5CC worked ZD8N and ZD8SA on 6m; no further details on them.

Chad: Eric F1JKK/TL8MB was hoping to activate Chad on 6m starting in February, with the same rig he used at TL8. Final details have yet to be confirmed. Also Eric hopes to activate FT4 later this year (wherever that is). Tnx Six News.

Madeira: Cedric CT3FT is now active with an RN Electronics transverter running 25 watts into a 3el beam. He winters in CT3 and will be returning home around April to GI-land for the summer. Tnx Six News. Also, JA6TEW has donated, and JA1VOK has shipped, a Tokyo Hy-Power HL-166V 160-watt amplifier to CT3FT. Cedric has been liaising on 28885 with south Pacific stations.

Malawi: Kay 7Q7XX is now QRV from grid KH66, running 50 watts to 4 elements, and in a major 7Q7 opening to the US on Feb.22 he was the strongest of the many 7Q7's. He will be there for two years; QSLs go via JH3RRA. Tnx PY5CC, J1IHE, and N7JJS.

For those needing 7Q7RM QSLs, three possible routes are being reported: for 1992 6m QSOs only, go via G0IAS, A. Hickman, The Conifers, High St, Elkesley, Retford, Nottingham, U.K. (he is also listed in Six News as manager for 7Q7LA). The Six News list shows 7Q7RM as direct to Ron Macfarlane, P.O.Box 472, Blantyre, Malawi. And some QSL lists in the US show his manager as K6KIL.

N2AVR has received the 7Q7CM logs back to June 1991, and he is now the QSL manager for 7Q7CM.

Mali: TZ6VV has now been told officially that he will not be allowed on 6m due to Band 1 TV usage. Tnx Six News.

Morocco: Andy K8EFS, QSL manager for Tarik CN8ST, says that cards sent direct to CN8ST will be answered via the bureau. Tnx G4UPS.

CN2JP was southwest of Rabat. K6FV's present best estimate of his actual location is 33°53'N/7°04'W with an uncertainty of 2' in latitude and longitude, making his most likely grid square IM63lv, but possibly IM63lu, IM63ku, or IM63kv, but not IM64, which is what was on his QSL card.

Western Sahara: Naama S01A worked into Europe on January 31. Tnx WVHFN. Can anyone provide the QSL route for S01A?

BEACON NEWS

Australia: VK7RSB/b will continue on 50.057 despite that frequency being occupied by VK8VF/b. Anyone want to try convincing the VK8's to move their beacon down 1200 Hertz to where it is authorized? VK7RSB has 100 watts of CW into a 5el yagi pointed at the U.S., and is situated at the QTH of VK7AD. Tnx VK3OT.

Also, KA3B has received word from VK3BRZ that the VK3RGL machine (52.330) is currently off the air pending modifications and site improvements.

Canada: Per VE2YB, the VE2STL/b (50.086) is permanently off the air (since 1991 April) due to TVI. Tnx KA3B.

A new beacon, VE5US (University of Saskatchewan), is now on the air on 50.0635. Its CW note is a bit rough. The operator is VE5UF. Tnx VE6TA.

Another new beacon, VE6MTR, is now in the test mode, on 50.0328 (as measured by your editor and WA7KHO; VE7SKA measured 50.0362, so maybe it's moving around). It runs 25 watts, with power-stepping down to 0.25 watt, into an omnidirectional horizontally-polarized antenna. It is being tested in DO20, but will later be moved to a site some 50 km east of Calgary in DO31, and it may be QSYed down to about 50.028. Reports go to VE6CMM. Tnx VE6XT.

And yet another new beacon, VE7BEE, was measured on 50.0499 by your editor on Feb.27; it runs 10 watts from DN09. It will alternate between an omni antenna and a 5-el. beam aimed south, and will be off the air when VE7BEE is active. Eventually it may be moved to the top of a 7000-foot mountain. Tnx VE7SKA.

China: Chip N6CA notes that his sister (a solar astronomer) will be visiting Beijing in September, and could hand-carry a 6m beacon there, if connections can be made. Ron VK4BRG suggests that Kang BZ4SAA would be a logical contact to pursue this matter.

Easter Island: Randy N7JJS/5 wrote to CE0FFD to inquire whether the Easter group would be willing to host a 6m beacon, and got a prompt affirmative reply. Not only that, but 220-volt AC power is available 24 hours/day.

Ecuador: Gus HC2FG has his beacon up and running again, with the ident fixed (it had been sending C2FG). It is situated in Guayaquil, near sea level, but may soon be moved back to its old mountaintop site. It is off the air when Gus is listening on the band, due to receiver desense.

Gibraltar: As mentioned 2 issues ago, the ZB2VHF beacon is on the air again. ZB2BL says it now runs 30 watts to a 5el beam. Tnx Six News. Could we *please* get a precision measurement of both its mark and space frequencies, so that the new V73 beacon can be shifted, if necessary, to avoid QRMing it?

Hawaiian Islands: The KH6HI beacon has returned to the air as of January 31, on its new, carefully chosen, frequency of 50.0644. It is now located in BL01 at Wailua, Oahu, near sea level about 200 meters inland. Despite horizon obstructions, it is being heard in North America and the Pacific islands. It currently runs 10 watts into a turnstile, but may be raised to 50 or 60 watts later. Tnx KH6HH.

Kazakhstan: Per Mike UL7GDD, the UL8GDD beacon is still running 24 hours/day with 10 watts into a 3el yagi beaming due west. The frequency is now given as 50.0355 but a precision listener measurement is needed.

Marshall Islands: At the end of January, Chip N6CA shipped the completed beacon to V73AT, and Tim got it up and running promptly. It runs 20 watts into a Ringo vertical about 1 wavelength above ground, just 50 feet from the ocean's edge at the club station; Tim may get it higher later. The frequency is 50.0366, and it's already being heard all around the Pacific rim.

Mexico: Alberto XE3VV says that a Yucatan beacon will be active starting in February on "50.2" MHz, call sign and equipment not stated. Tnx W5FF.

In mid-February Jack N6XQ visited La Paz and upgraded the XE2HWB machine. It now has 10 watts into a loop antenna.

Montserrat: Bobbie VP2MO has put his beacon back on the air, and it is already being reported widely. The technical details are as before, 50.086 with 15 watts into 6 elements at 35 feet, beaming northwest. Bobbie recently acquired another tower, a 72-foot crankup, for his extra pair of 5el Cushcrafts which will be aimed in two different directions and used for the beacon. His old FT620B doesn't work on USB, so it is used for the beacon. Operation will be intermittent, although a plot is afoot to equip Bobbie with a dedicated beacon which could operate 24 hours from a nearby mountaintop.

Netherlands Antilles: The PJ2/OH1ZAA DXpedition has set up a beacon, PJ2SIX, on 50.094 (good grief, there goes the CW window). They do plan to leave this beacon behind after they depart. The long-promised PJ4B beacon is still not active.

Papua-New Guinea: Rex VK8RH has built the keyer for the P29BPL beacon, but Paul P29PL has recently moved and Rex needs Paul's new address so he can ship the keyer. If anyone can provide this info, please send it to Rex or relay it via NI6E.

Poland: The Polish 6m Initiative Group has constructed a 6m beacon in JO81hu, running 10 watts into a GP antenna 45 meters above ground; unfortunately it cannot be switched on until a permit is granted. Tnx Six News.

Scotland: GB3LER is the callsign of a new beacon on 50.064 (sigh) which came on the air on January 11. Located at Lerwick on Shetland Island (IP90jd), it runs 45 watts into a dipole. Eventually the dipole may be replaced by a 3-element yagi. It runs 24 hours, and the mode is FSK. The operator is GM4IPK. Tnx G4UPS.

United States: WB0RMO advises that his beacon (50.061) is temporarily silent due to a lightning strike. Tnx KA3B. N6CW is no longer running his beacon due to complaints of local QRM. Tnx KA3B. W2CAP/1 is now running a beacon on 50.070, with 15 watts into an antenna up 200 feet. Tnx Steve. The K6FV beacon (CM87) uses beams pointed SW or NW most often, but early mornings uses a corner reflector pointed NE. Changeover is manual, at 8:15 AM local time weekdays, as late as noon weekends.

Uruguay: CX1CCC/b was copied by TI2NA on January 14, the first such report seen in over a year. Erik measured the frequency as 50.0190, and the CW message was '...CX1CC-CX1CC-CX1CC...'

EQUIPMENT NOTES

The W5FF Hard-Wired IC551 Wideband Mod: Thanks to Fred for engineering this modification, and for forwarding the full details. It enables continuous coverage down to 45.11 MHz, while sacrificing coverage above 53 MHz.

1) Remove the top cover, and place the radio with the front facing away from you. In what is now the top left corner, between the readout and the PLL box, is a vertical board, with connections along the top labeled (left to right) B4, C4, D4, A4, D3, etc.

2) A miniature SPDT switch is needed (preferably with no center-off position). Fred mounted his in a 1/4-inch hole drilled through the top cover, between the aforementioned board and the readout, about 1/2-inch in from what is normally the right-hand side of the radio, and about 5/8-inch in from the front edge of the cover. This switch should have 2- to 4-inch flexible jumper wires attached to the two outer lugs.

3) Using a low-powered narrow-tip soldering iron, carefully remove the Pink wire from D4, tape the end, and tie it back out of the way. It will not be used.

4) Remove the Green wire from C4, and connect it to the center (wiper) contact of the switch.

5) Connect one side of the switch to the C4 point, and the other side of the switch to the D4 point.

6) Now reassemble everything; this completes the basic modification. With the switch wiper connected to C4, the range 50.000 to 52.999 will now tune and read out normally. In this same switch position, 53.110 to 53.999 on the display will actually be 45.110 to 45.999. With the switch wiper connected to D4, coverage will be from 46.000 to 49.999, while the display will show 50.000 to 53.999.

7) In some radios, the PLL may fail to lock up at some point near the bottom end of the new tuning range. If this is the case, a further mod can be made. Unsolder and remove the cover of the VCO box (small box about 1 x 2

inches, aft of the large PLL box). Connect a small 5-pico-farad capacitor between the junction of L3 & D2, and ground (any convenient point inside the box). This solder point is in a tight spot, so be very careful. The VCO should now tune easily down to 45.11 MHz.

8) Now the radio should tune the 46-50 MHz range in one position, and the segments 50, 51, 52, and 45 in the other position. If you are happy with the performance you can quit at this point. Sensitivity will drop slightly below 46 MHz, but with a good preamp it should still be adequate. Fred comments, "I always use a preamp with my IC551D. Its 12-volt supply is from pin 2 of the 28-pin accessory socket on the rear (the second pin up from the lower left-hand corner). For better performance below the band I re-peaked the helical RF filters L26, L27, L29, and L30 respectively to 46, 47, 48, and 49 MHz. I'm sure that with a sweep generator this could be improved upon, but I am happy with it now; less than 1 microvolt will give me a readable signal on all bands, and no loss of sensitivity is seen around the low end of the 50 MHz segment."

9) If you have any questions on this modification, W5FF kindly offers his help. Write to Fred Fish, P.O. Box 73, Edgewood, NM 87015. Please be sure to enclose a large SASE or an SAE with appropriate postage.

Papers Available from WA6JRA

Sam WA6JRA has written a comparative evaluation of the various 6m rigs that are currently available. Among other conclusions, Sam writes: "In my opinion to pay \$1200-2000 list for an improperly designed 50 MHz transceiver should no longer be acceptable...I strongly feel that we do not need just another 50 MHz box...instead, we need a state-of-the-art transceiver that will be superb in all parameters...The need for such a set will not be acknowledged by the three major manufacturers, since many ham dealers have stated that 1% of the total sales resulted from 6m gear...A more realistic approach will be to get the best manufacturer of HF transceivers to redesign the set for full 30-50 MHz receive, 50-54 MHz transmit, a separate N connector for 6m, enhancement of all receiver and transmitter circuits, a noise blanker that will really work under the most severe conditions, and other special features." This paper is available for an SASE to Sam Goda, 1815 N. Woodside Street, Orange, CA 92665. Also, Sam has revised his earlier paper discussing proposed changes to the 6m DX Wind-ow, particularly as regards southern California operating problems. It is available for an SASE.

Other Sources

The Six-Meter International Radio Klub (SMIRK) continues to provide numerous services, including distribution of donated 6m equipment, a library of technical reprints, contests, awards, and registry of 6m operators. Annual dues are \$6.00, which should be sent in January of each year to Klub secretary Ray Clark K5ZMS, 7158 Stone Fence, San Antonio TX 78227.

VHF LOW BAND NOTES is a new publication devoted to the DXing of (utility) stations between 29.7 and 50.0 MHz. Issue #2 is at hand, containing 10 pages, and it discusses, in great detail, 25 loggings of North American two-way services made by the editor. Also, he lists the daily peak observed MUFs for the Transcon path, and provides additional miscellaneous tips and information. For further details, write to the editor/publisher: Brian Webb, 3329 Silver Spur Court, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360-1041.

1st Worldwide VHF Ionospheric Propagation Symposium

To be held in conjunction with The Central States VHF Society Annual Conference in Kerrville, TX July 16-19, 92

Call For Papers

The VHF Ionospheric Symposium will be devoted to the study and dissemination of information relating to the ionospheric propagation of radio signals at 50 MHz and above. Because of the very high level of world-wide activity associated with the recent solar cycle peak, we expect there will be a special emphasis on presentations and discussions concerning six meter propagation. We encourage papers on all forms of ionospheric propagation including F-layer, TEP, E-skip, Scatter, Aurora, and FAI on 50 MHz and above.

Those wishing to present papers in this symposium should submit an abstract to the Program Chairman (address below) as soon as possible, but not later than April 15th, 1992. (Papers on other VHF/UHF/Microwave topics should be submitted to: Derwin King, W5LUU, 7335 Wild Eagle Rd., San Antonio, TX 78255). All accepted papers will be included in the Proceedings of the Central States VHF Society published by the ARRL.

The symposium, as well as the Central States Conference will be held at the YO Hilton Hotel in Kerrville, Texas—about an hour's drive from San Antonio. Most major air carriers service San Antonio.

In addition, a wild-west Texas Style Barbecue will be hosted by Bill Tynan—W3XO, CSVHFS 1991 President, on Sunday, July 19th at Bill's QTH on the Tierra Linda Ranch just outside of Kerrville.

To submit abstracts or for
Program information:

For information on
Registration and Attendance

Dave Batcho, N5JHV
5611 Desert Star Road
Las Cruces, NM 88005
(505) 526-1861

Larry Hazelwood, W5NZS
P O Box 54437
Oklahoma City, OK 73154
(405) 848-6400

Grid Square Locator Programs

by the Mad Hacker

Gentlemen: from J. Dean Moore 29 January 1992

I am very interested in six meters and expect to have a new radio to use very soon. Presently I am on HF, 10 through 30 MHz, 2 meters, and 440 MHz; using all modes including Packet and Amtor; but I need my "QTH locator", or Grid Location. Can you assist me with this? My exact location is 25.38°S and 56.98°W near a town called Eusebio Ayala. My friends in Asuncion say the Grid Location for that city is GG-14 but that my location is different.

J. Dean Moore, ZP6XD, P.O. Box 2320, Asuncion, Paraguay

Your friends are only partly right. Indeed your location is different, but your 4-digit grid square is the same. Your 6-digit grid square is GG14mo.

Since 99% of our readers have not sent in their coordinates or 6-digit grid squares to us at P.O. Box 762 in Menlo Park, CA, 94026, we're going to give you an incentive, a pair of programs to transform ones geographical coordinates (latitude, longitude) to a grid square; or given a grid square, to determine the latitude and longitude of the midpoint of that square. Since Fortran is my native computer language, that's what they are written in. BASIC programmers should have no difficulty translating them.

C PROGRAM GRIDLOC
C GIVEN LATITUDE N AND LONGITUDE (+E, -W),
C COMPUTES SIX-DIGIT GRID SQUARE

```

C
C CHARACTER*6 GRID
C WRITE(*,198)
198 FORMAT(' GRID SQUARE LOCATOR PROGRAM'/
1 ' IF YOU ENTER FRACTIONAL DEGREES, ENTER 0',
2 ' FOR MIN '/' CTRL-Z AND ENTER TO EXIT PROGRAM ')
200 WRITE(*,201)
201 FORMAT(' ENTER LATITUDE N (DEG MIN)')
READ(*,*,END=239) DEG, DMIN
PLAT = DEG + SIGN(DMIN/60.0,DEG)
WRITE(*,203)
203 FORMAT(' ENTER LONGITUDE E (DEG MIN)')
READ(*,*) DEG, DMIN
PLOW = DEG + SIGN(DMIN/60.0,DEG)
COLAT = 90.0 + PLAT
SULON = 180.0 + PLOW
IF(SULON.GT.360.) SULON = SULON - 360.
NLAT = IFIX(COLAT/10.)
NLOW = IFIX(SULON/20.)
GRID(1:1) = CHAR(NLOW+65)
GRID(2:2) = CHAR(NLAT+65)
RLAT = COLAT - 10.0*NLAT
RLOW = SULON - 20.0*NLOW
MLAT = IFIX(RLAT)
MLOW = IFIX(RLOW/2.)
GRID(3:3) = CHAR(MLOW+48)
GRID(4:4) = CHAR(MLAT+48)
KLAT = (RLAT - MLAT) * 24.
KLOW = (RLOW - 2*MLOW) * 12.
GRID(5:5) = CHAR(KLOW+65)
GRID(6:6) = CHAR(KLAT+65)
WRITE(*,232) GRID
232 FORMAT(' GRID SQUARE LOCATOR IS ',A6)
GOTO 200
239 STOP
END

```

C PROGRAM LATLOW
C GIVEN 4 OR 6 DIGIT GRID SQUARE, DETERMINE
C LATITUDE N AND LONGITUDE E OF CENTER OF GRID SQUARE

```

C
C CHARACTER*6 GRID
C WRITE(*,198)
198 FORMAT(' LATITUDE & LONGITUDE OF CENTER OF GRID',
1 ' SQUARE, '/' CTRL-Z AND ENTER TO EXIT PROGRAM ')
200 WRITE(*,201)
201 FORMAT(' ENTER SIX DIGIT GRID SQUARE OR 4 DIGIT',
1 ' + 2 SPACES.')
READ(*,202,END=239) GRID
202 FORMAT(A6)
CENLAT = 0.5
CENLOW = 1.0
IF(GRID(6:6).NE.' ')
1 CENLAT = (IORD(GRID(6:6)) - 64.5)/24.
IF(GRID(5:5).NE.' ')
1 CENLOW = (IORD(GRID(5:5)) - 64.5)/12.
CENLAT = CENLAT + (IORD(GRID(2:2))-65.)*10.
COLAT = CENLAT + IORD(GRID(4:4)) - 48.
CENLOW = CENLOW + (IORD(GRID(1:1))-65.)*20.
SULON = CENLOW+(IORD(GRID(3:3))-48.)*2.
PLAT = COLAT - 90.
PLOW = SULON - 180.
WRITE(*,209) PLAT,PLOW
209 FORMAT(' LATITUDE=',F9.3,' N, LONGITUDE=',F10.3,' E')
GOTO 200
239 STOP
END
FUNCTION IORD(CH)
CHARACTER*1 CH,CHI
INTEGER*1 ICH
EQUIVALENCE (ICH,CHI)
CHI = CH
IORD = ICH
IF(IORD.GE.97) IORD = IORD - 32
RETURN
END

```

Annual subscription rate for The 50 MHz DX Bulletin is \$20 U.S.; US\$22 Canada; US\$25 elsewhere. Make remittance payable to Sheldon Remington, and send to P.O. Box 1222, Keauau HI 96749 U.S.A.